

PROTECTING THE UNBORN

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The title of this sermon is “Protecting the Unborn.”

RECAP

Today we are concluding a sermon series called “Send it Ahead.”

It is based on the idea that everyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ goes to heaven. Heaven is a free gift that you can’t earn. However, the size of your reward and the level of your joy is dependent upon what you do on this earth.

And in Luke 12:33 Jesus made it very clear that one way to store up treasures in heaven is to give to the poor. You can send your money ahead to heaven by giving it away to the poor on earth.

So that’s what our Christmas Offering is about this year. It’s about giving to the poor – not just to help the poor, but to store up treasures in heaven for ourselves.

THE UNBORN

Today we’re going to talk about one group of people in our society who are perhaps the poorest of all – the unborn.

The unborn are legally poor because they do not have equal rights and protection under the law.

The most dangerous place to live in the United States is not the hood in Chicago; it’s the inside of a mother’s womb.

Because as long as child is living inside its mother’s womb, it is legal to kill it.

INFANTICIDE

The definition of infanticide is **the intentional killing of infants**.

And infanticide is found throughout the Bible.

We can start with **the story of Moses** in the book of Exodus. The Hebrews were living in slavery in the land of Egypt. The Egyptians saw their increasing population as a threat their national security, and so Pharaoh implemented a program of mass infanticide. He ordered that all Hebrew baby boys be thrown into the Nile river.

But the Egyptians were not the only ones guilty of infanticide. **The nation of Israel** fell into this sin as well. After they left Egypt and entered the promised land, they were influenced by the people living there called the Ammonites. And the Ammonites worshipped the god Molech. And one of the ways to worship Molech was child sacrifice. They would take their children and burn them alive on the altar of Molech, and for a time the Israelites adopted this practice.

The **Israelites** also fell into the worship of another false god called Baal, and part of Baal worship was child sacrifice. The idols of Baal were made out of sheet metal; the belly was hollow, and that's where they would build a fire. Then they would take their babies and throw them in the belly fire of Baal. And so the Israelites at times fell into the practice of child sacrifice and committed mass infanticide.

We also encounter infanticide in the **New Testament in the Christmas story**. When Jesus was born the king of Judea was Herod the Great (37- B.C.). Herod was a bad dude. He murdered his wife, three of his sons, his mother-in-law, his brother-in-law, his uncle and many others suspected of treachery. When he was on his deathbed, he ordered the execution of many influential Jews so that people would mourn at the time of his death rather than rejoice. When Herod heard from the wise men about a newborn king of the Jews, he was deeply disturbed. In an attempt to kill Jesus, he ordered that all the baby boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and older to be killed.

During that time period there was another form of infanticide that was very common in the Roman Empire called **Exposure**. In Greco-Roman culture, if a parent did not want their child, it was acceptable to place the child at the edge of a river or a forest and leave it to its fate. This wasn't considered murder because you weren't killing the baby, you were just exposing it to the elements. If the baby survived, great. If not, it's not their fault. They didn't kill it; they just exposed it and left it to its fate. So Christians in the first century would rescue these babies from the rivers and forests and raise these children as their own. And then when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380 A.D., one of the first laws that was changed was exposure. Exposure became illegal.

Here's the point. Killing babies is nothing new.

Babies have to be cared for. And some people would rather not care for babies. And so all throughout human history people have been tempted to kill babies rather than care for them.

And when we look back at the practice of infanticide throughout human history, everyone agrees that it is not only evil, but should be illegal.

Nobody is pro-choice when it comes to infanticide.

Nobody is protesting in Washington D.C. for the rights of women to choose what they want to do with their own infants.

Nobody says about infanticide, "Infanticide may be against your religion, but don't impose your religion on others."

Nobody is making the argument that mothers should be able to commit infanticide in cases of rape and incest.

Nobody says, "If you are against infanticide, then you are against women."

We all agree that infanticide is both evil and should be illegal.

But if that is the case, then why do so many people in our country support abortion?

Infanticide is the intentional killing of infants. Abortion is the intentional killing of unborn infants.

If we all agree that infanticide is evil, then why do we disagree when it comes to abortion?

The reason is that pro-abortion activists claim that unborn infants are not fully human, and therefore they don't have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Unborn infants are not fully human; they are in the process of becoming human;

they have the potential to be human; but they are not fully human.

But when you examine the reasons that abortion activists give for the unborn being subhuman, then you will clearly see the weaknesses of their position.

There are four main reasons that some people believe that the unborn are subhuman and therefore not entitled to all the same rights and privileges under the law as all other human beings. These four reasons can be summed up with the acronym SLED.

4 Reasons That Unborn Children Are Supposedly Subhuman

1. Size.

The first is size.

"Since unborn infants, or fetuses are so small, then they aren't fully human." But that's a ridiculous argument.

I'm 6'4" tall, and my wife is only 5'6". She's almost a full foot shorter than me. Is she less human? Of course not.

My son is only in the second grade. Compared to me he's tiny. Is he less human than me? No way.

The idea that size determines humanity is ridiculous because it is completely subjective.

How big does a child need to get to achieve full humanity? 20 inches? 19 inches? 15 inches? 10 inches? 5 inches? It's completely subjective. Size does not determine humanity.

2. Level of development.

"Since unborn infants are not fully developed, then they are subhuman." But that's ludicrous.

My thirteen year old daughter is going through puberty; she's still not fully developed. Is she subhuman? Should I be allowed to kill her?

My son in the second grade is definitely not fully developed. Is he subhuman? Should I be allowed to kill him?

Once again, the idea that level of development determines humanity is ridiculous because it is completely subjective.

How developed does a fetus need to be to be human?

Is it when the fetus has a heartbeat? A fetus' heartbeat begins 18 days after conception.

Is it when all of its organs are functioning? 8 weeks after conception.

Is it when it has its own distinct fingerprints? 9 weeks after conception.

Is it when it can feel pain? 10 weeks.

Is it when it can smile? 12 weeks.

Or is it when it has its own unique DNA code? The moment of conception. That's why from a biological perspective, all life begins at the moment of conception. That's a quote from Dr. Hymie Gordon, founder and director of the May Clinic's world-renowned medical genetics program.

So if a fetus is not fully human at the moment of conception because it is not fully developed, then what milestones of development must it meet to be human enough to have the right to not be murdered?

Once you say that a fetus is not fully human at conception, then defining "human" becomes completely subjective.

3. Environment.

The third reason that pro-abortion activists give that unborn infants are subhuman is their environment.

Since they are in a woman's womb, they don't have any rights.

But as soon as they leave the womb, they have all human rights.

But environment, or location does not define or determine one's humanity.

You are a human person. And there's nowhere that you can go that can change that.

If you go to Mars, you are still a human person. If you go to the moon, you are still a human person.

And if a newborn baby is a human person the instant it is born, then an unborn infant is a human person one second before it is born.

And if it is a human person one second before birth, then it is a human person in its mother's womb.

And if it is human person inside its mother's womb, then it should be illegal to murder it.

4. Dependence.

The final reason that pro-abortion activists give for why they believe that unborn infants are subhuman is that they are dependent upon the mother for life; and since they are dependent on another person for life, then they don't have full rights and protections under the law. But once again, this argument is complete nonsense.

A newborn infant is completely helpless and dependent on its mother.

A one year old child is completely dependent on others for life.

Are they subhuman? Would it be okay to kill them?

A person in the ICU is completely dependent on others for life.

One time I visited a man in the ICU after he suffered a drug overdose on Crystal Meth, and he was in a coma, he had tubes up his nose, and tubes down his mouth, and tubes stuck in his arm. He was completely dependent upon others for life.

Does that make him less of a human? Would it be okay to kill him? Of course not.

So as you can see, all the reasons that pro-abortion activists give for claiming that unborn infants are subhuman are nonsense. They literally do not make sense.

Unborn babies are as human as you and me, and they deserve the same rights and protections under the law that we have.

Since that is the case, then abortion is murder.

And this means that in America murder is legal if the victim happens to be an unborn person.

This means that since the legalization of abortion in 1973, 60 million unborn infants have been murdered.

So what should Christians do about abortion?

Look at **Proverbs 24:11-12 (CSB)**.

11 Rescue those being taken off to death,
and save those stumbling toward slaughter.

12 If you say, "But we didn't know about this,"
won't he who weighs hearts consider it?

Won't he who protects your life know?

Won't he repay a person according to his work?

Let me make **three observations** about this passage.

1. **First, you are to rescue those who are being murdered.**

You are not allowed to be uninvolved.

You are called to get your hands dirty.

You are called by God to get involved.

How can you rescue the unborn from murder?

First, make a firm commitment never to have an abortion, or to encourage someone to have an abortion.

Second, vote for pro-life politicians.

Never vote for a politician who is in favor of murdering unborn children.

I don't care if they are offering zero taxes. We must vote pro-abortion politicians out of office.

And by the way, this means that you need to vote. Never miss an opportunity to go to the polls. Your vote counts. And the reason why it is legal to murder unborn children today is because people voted for politicians who made laws to legalize abortion.

One of the reasons I did not vote for President Obama was that he was a strong pro-abortionist. In 2012 he won the election by about 2 million votes. It was estimated that 9.4 million conservative registered voters did not vote.

Do you know why abortion is still legal in America? Do you know why same-sex marriage is legal? It's very simple. It's because so many Christians are civically unengaged.

Don't get me wrong. Politics isn't everything, but politics can do a lot.

Politics can't save people from hell, but politics can make it illegal to own slaves; politics can make it legal for a baker to run his business according to his religious beliefs; politics can stop the government from taking away your guns so that you can protect your family; and politics and make it illegal to kill unborn children.

I like what **Martin Luther King Jr.** said when he was told to stop talking about politics and stick to preaching the gospel because that's not the job of the church. He said, "It may be true that a law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop a man from lynching me, and that's pretty important."

In other words, to protect the unborn you need to become pro-life politically.

What does it mean to be pro-life? The Human Coalition has written “The Pro-Life Declaration.” You can go online and sign it. So far over 350,000 people have signed it. It defines what it means to be pro-life.

- I believe every life has dignity and limitless potential.
- I believe the “right to life” is the most fundamental right protected by America’s founding documents.
- I believe life should be protected and defended from the moment of conception until natural death.
- I believe grace, compassion and understanding are essential to protecting life.

A third thing you can do to rescue the unborn is to support crisis pregnancy centers.

This year as part of our Christmas Offering we are hoping to raise \$1,000 to send to A Pregnancy Center and Clinic in Lafayette (APCC).

Crisis pregnancy centers all over the country focus on ministering to women who are considering abortion. Their goal is to talk them out of abortion and lead them to faith in Jesus Christ. And these centers are actually very effective.

One of the methods they use is to show these young women an ultrasound of their unborn child. And amazingly, research shows that up to 90% of the time when a pregnant woman on her way to have an abortion sees an ultrasound, she decides to keep the baby.

That’s why every month our church sends support to APCC, and then every Christmas we like to send them an additional gift to support their work.

A fourth thing you can do to rescue the unborn is to educate yourself on the subject so that you can make the case for life in your everyday conversations.

I want to recommend a couple of books. I have a few copies of ***Why Pro-Life?*** by Randy Alcorn; help yourself. And another great book is ***The Case for Life***, by Scott Klusendorf.

Let's get back to our passage in Proverbs.

2. A second observation is that **if you don't rescue those who are being murdered, God will know it.**

Verse 12 says, "If you say, 'But we didn't know about this,' won't he who weighs hearts consider it? Won't he who protects your life know?"

There has always been the temptation for people to avoid getting involved.

It's easier and safer and cheaper to just mind your own business and turn a blind eye to injustice.

But God pays attention to this. He is watching to see who gets involved and who doesn't.

That brings us to the third observation from this passage.

3. **God will repay you for what you do about those who are being murdered.**

Look at the end of **verse 12**. "Won't he repay a person according to his work?"

God will hold you accountable for what you do about the issue of abortion.

What does that mean exactly? I don't know. But I don't want to find out.

CONCLUSION

Infanticide is nothing new.

But right now it's happening on our watch, in our country, to the tune of 1.2 million murders every year through legalized abortion.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is all about Jesus sacrificing everything in order to rescue us from eternal death.

And God has called to us embody that gospel by rescuing not only souls, but lives who are in danger of murder. And that means we need to get to work.